

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Security Committee

SECOM-D-291

23 July 1980

25X1A MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, [] Steering Group
25X1A FROM: []
SECUM Member
25X1A SUBJECT: [] Badge

1. We are a badged population. We carry them around all day. We use them for access in a machine. We display them on challenge. We feel uncomfortable without them. We check to see if we have them in the morning more consciously than we check to see if we have our drivers license. We wear temporary badges with a sense of discomfort on those rare occasions we forget our own. Woe the day we loose our badge. Better should we have lost the wallet. Never, ever do we think of ever letting anyone borrow the badge. Most would share a toothbrush before sharing a badge. A badge is the last thing surrendered on retirement and when it is turned in, the reality of final departure reportedly strikes home. Some people collect badge symbols. It is considered by some to be a mark of prestige or special recognition to have the "H" or "L" or "A" on the badge. Who knows what they mean, or cares. They are marks of distinction, plumage on an award. They make the badge more valuable and cause it to be more carefully prized and guarded. Some people collect badges. An Agency badge is good. An Agency badge and a CHB badge on the same chain is better, more classy. Envy follows the lucky chap that sports 3 or 4 badges.

2. Whatever the psychology or ego feed at work in connection with badges, true angst is displayed when a person comes into the security office to humbly report that he "lost his badge." What greater offense, what more visible

evidence of carelessness, what stronger proof of potential unreliability is there! Low hangs the head, eagerly is felt the desire for a fine or reprimand that would allow guilt to be assuaged and the gods paid off. But there is no relief. You lost your badge.

25X1A 3. If you buy this then you are ready for a proposal to use [] badges.

25X1A 4. The concept is simple. People approved for access to [] will be issued badges that reflect what compartments they hold. The badge will be a valid certification of approved access. The idea was first raised in the early 70s by the DCI at the time. Taken from an experience involving a credit card check in a commercial transaction, the idea was thought to have merit in security access matters. A credit card was presented for a certain dollar value purchase. The sum was punched into a small countertop box and the credit card inserted. Data was sent and the return was validation or rejection by means of a green or red light. Early inquiry proved this system to be too expensive for security use. The whole idea was not dropped. The concept of another card or badge with accesses indicated on its surface was retained. This concept was considered worthy of exploration in connection with []

25X1A 5. The implementation procedures called for design competition, design selection, preliminary engineering, production of breadboard model(s), a period of testing, customer acceptance survey, final alterations redesign and production of initial units for field testing. Following evaluation of endurance and weather testing, results were to be presented to the [] Steering Group for determination of means of production, centralized or localized and distribution grids. This engineering plan proved unacceptably cumbersome.

6. The Office of Technical Services was contacted and a preliminary idea of need was given them with a request for solution. Three alternatives, with price, were submitted. Two were discarded as too expensive and too complex. The third design is described below and cost figures are given.

Description

A badge measuring 3 1/4" x 2 1/2" with 1/4" oval slit 1/8" wide.

Composition paper suitable for lamination in standard lamination machines.

Face - 3 Colors

Yellow occupying top 1 1/2 inches
Brown occupying middle 1 1/4 inch
Red occupying bottom 4/8 inch

Within Yellow section:

12 sets of Black letters (one capital and one lower case) to serve as digraphs of compartment indicators

Within Brown Section:

12 sets of Black letters (one capital and one lower case) to serve as digraphs of subcompartment indicators

Within Red Section:

4 letters to serve as 1st letter of generic term for Product Accesses.

9 numerals representing unique number identifiers

Reverse - Blank

Cost - 45 cents each in quantity

Proposed Means of use:

Central point produced badges with all digraphs.

Blocks of badges issued to Government departments participating in in numbers corresponding to numbers of personnel holding access to compartments.

Agencies issue badges at time of indoctrination.

Accesses not granted are punched out.



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